

Karl D. v. Göttche

Altona July 8. 1880.

My Dear Sir,

I send you with this letter a dissertation with which I was occupied, when I got (3 May) your last letter of April 18, as the term of printing was fixed and my paper was the last but one, I was obliged to finish it in the fixed time, if the next piece should not wait. I was not able to answer your letter without knowing the extent of the labour, which would make your honorable proposal and if my shoulders would bear it in the whole; I therefore have overlooked the *Hepatic. Americ. boreal.* of Austin and the *Species of Taylor in North-America*, but I have found that this work will be too long for a man of 72 years, as it would take more than all my time if I had nothing to do, but I am still in office as medical practitioner for the poor of 3 districts of our city. I have been formerly in scientific communication with Mr. Austin, but I did not agree with him about his *Species* and so I left him his natural part and looked for *exotical Hepaticae* of other parts of the world; of course the forms of North America are nearly unknown to me and by overlooking the herbarium of Austin I have had the impression, that the American type is somewhat different from our German *Hepaticae*, so that after my opinion only an American botanist would be able to arrange the book after the plants and papers of Mr. Austin, the death of whose I really lament. You will then have a real American work, and even if there were some mistakes in it, they could be corrected in a second edition.

I for my part assure you, that, if any one would make me the proposal to do the same thing for the German *Hepaticae*, I would hesitate at taking charge of the work and I am therefore

very satisfied that a friend of mine, M^r. Gustavus Limpricht, schoolmaster at Breslau, is requested to do so with the second part of Rabenhorst's Cryptogamian Flora of Germany, containing Mosses and Hepaticae; in 1877 he has edited the I part of the Cryptogamian Flora of Silesia - Mosses and Hepaticae, 350 pages - and is thus experienced in such things. He has 4 Sabies; and of course he has accepted the proposal of the publisher upon condition, that he may have two years time to finish it.

As my little treatise is finished, I will take, this summer, my pleasure in your Herbarium; the wish to help M^r. Watson with the Californian Hepaticae of D^r. Bolander has taken me more than a month in the spring; afterwards I was puzzled with 28 amber-slides, in which were enclosed Hepaticae of the tertiary time or - Under oligocæn - as our Geologists call it; I had made the drawings already before, a very tedious labour; but now I was requested by Prof. Göppert at Breslau, to make the text, as the whole will now be published. As we are contemporaries I beg you to favour me with your photograph and to believe me always

Yours very sincerely

D^r. Gottsche.